



# Our Lady and St Patrick, Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phádraig



## Parent Update

February 2021

Please see below some very important updates regarding the school day, clubs and general school life.

### Primary / Rang 1-3 Return

We are delighted to welcome our P/R 1-3 classes back for face to face learning from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Primary / Rang 1-3 will then return to remote learning from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March until Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April (Easter Break).

We have worked extremely hard to prepare for the return of our pupils and our recovery curriculum will focus on Health and Wellbeing, creativity and physical activity.

In order for this to run as smoothly as possible we have put the following measures in place.

<u>Start Times (drop off)</u>	<u>Pick Up Times</u>
<u>8.50am</u> – Primary 1 and 2	<u>Primary 1 &amp; 2:</u> 1.50pm (Mon –Thurs) & 1.40pm (Friday)
<u>9.00am</u> - Rang 1-3 and Primary 3	<u>Rang 1 &amp; 2:</u> 2 pm (Mon –Thurs) & 1.50pm (Friday) <u>Primary / Rang 3:</u> 2.55pm(Mon – Wed) 1.55pm (Thurs – Fri)

#### Please Note

- There will be no Breakfast Club following the Education Ministers Guidelines.
- Children will not be permitted in school before 8.30am as there is no supervision in place.
- At 8.30am we will offer outdoor supervision for pupils in Year Group Bubbles.
- Siblings in school for supervised learning can be collected at the same time as P/R 1-3 pupils, however P/R 1-3 pupils cannot stay in school to wait for older siblings.
- Bus children will go home at their original designated times.

#### Drop off and Pick Up Locations

- Drop off will be at the main school gate or at the end of the path. The one-way system will remain in place.
- Pick- ups will take place on the front yard of the school. Parents are asked to walk up the path, socially distancing and follow the arrows through the playground. Pupils will be lined up with their class and sent to parents as they walk along the line. Parents and children will then use the one-way system to exit the school grounds.
- We would ask all parents to wear masks and to keep moving to ensure there is no overcrowding.
- Please adhere to your child's pick up time to avoid large crowds gathering on the playground.

#### • Important Information

- Dinners: Will operate as normal in school with hot meals provided for pupils wishing to attend as well as those on Free School Meals for P/R 1-3.
- Buses: The Yellow Bus and the Town Service Bus will operate as usual.
- Work Packs: On Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> March children requiring paper packs for the following week and a half until the Easter Break will be given these before leaving school.
- Homework: There will be no homework for this two-week period to help pupils settle back to school and ensure they are fresh to engage fully in face to face learning.
- School Bags: At present school bags are still not permitted in school. Therefore, we request all lunches to be sent in disposable bags. This will remain under review and follow guidance from DE.

## Primary / Rang 4-7

Although we would love to be welcoming all our children back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March we have been instructed that Primary / Rang 4 – 7 will continue to learn remotely.

Our staff are working extremely hard to make this as interactive and enjoyable as possible and we thank you all for your hard work in home schooling.

Throughout this time Google Classroom and SeeSaw will continue alongside Accelerated Reader, Mathletics, Spelling Shed, Maths Shed and Myon digital.

**Supervised Learning:** School will remain open for key workers and vulnerable children from 9am until the end of their normal school day. Should they have a sibling in P/R 1-3 then they can be picked up at the earlier time with them. Following the guidelines from DE we are extremely low on available space and would again request parents to use this as a last resort.

### What to do if your child develops C-19 Symptoms.

As you are aware Covid-19 is prevalent in this area. We would ask parents to be mindful of this with regard to school. Please note that the school will only contact parents if one of the following two situations arises:

- 1 – A child in a particular class tests positive- then all families within that class will be informed.
- 2 – A member of staff tests positive- then all families in the school will be notified.

### Important Dates

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March – 16<sup>th</sup> March – Post Primary admissions online

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Phased return of P/R 1-3

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – School Closed for St Patricks Day

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – School Closes at 11am for Easter Holidays

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April – School reopens for Term 3

### Get school updates via your phone

Our school is now listed in the **Schools NI** app, which allows you to view school updates and receive messages via your phone or tablet. The app is available on both Apple and Android devices, and will give you access to our school news, calendar events and letters.

To install the app, open <https://www.ourladyandstpatrickpsdownpatrick.com/> on your phone or tablet and click the 'Download App' button that appears at the top of the screen.

We understand this is an extremely challenging time for all our families and want to reassure you that we are here to help. I would like to commend you all for your dedication and hard work towards home schooling, it is greatly appreciated by each and every one of us.

Finally, thank you for all your messages of support which have been sent through to our staff. We are incredibly lucky to have such an innovative team in school and I can assure you they will continue to go above and beyond for all our pupils.



Thank you for your continued support.